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ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (#322)

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WTAQ-BLUE  
(11:00 - 12:15) TIME

(JANUARY 13th, 1939) DATE

(FRIDAY DAY)

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS



ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

MUSIC: QUARTET, RANGERS' SONG.

ANNOUNCER: The phrase "community forest" meant little to this country fifty years ago. In Europe, however, forests managed by communities as a source of municipal income have been in existence from the time of Charlemagne in the 9th century. The United States Forest Service says that community forests are certain to become an increasingly important factor in the economic structure of urban life in America. For every year sees an increase in the number of such forests in this country. And every year more towns and counties are learning the value of community owned forests as a means of decreasing local taxes, helping meet local unemployment problems, and supplying a perpetual reservoir of jobs and income.

Well — our friend Parker Jim Robbins, of the Pine Cone National Forest, received a letter this week from an old friend of his, Kate Radcliff who lives in the town of Radcliff, a hundred and fifty miles south of Winding Creek. Kate Radcliff is over eighty years of age, and the last of her family who first settled and named the town where she lives. One of the old lady's eccentric characteristics is that she insists that her friends address her as "Kate" — At the moment, she and Jim Robbins are sitting before the window in the livingroom of the old Radcliff home, which overlooks the valley of a stream on the edge of the town —





JIM: (FADING IN) Well now, your grandfather built the town hall. And your father built a library. And I seem to remember three or four statues —

KATE: Grandfather Radcliff built the town hall so he could have a place to make speeches on the Fourth of July without gettin' sunstroke. And he didn't leave a nickle to keep up the building. My father erected a beautiful stone library and had "Henry Radcliff Library" chiseled across the front in such big letters that you have to look twice to see the door.

JIM: (LAUGHING) Well, even with all the advertising, I reckon folks here appreciate a good library.

KATE: They might have had a chance to appreciate it if any money had been left to buy books to put in it — And those statues — Every year Radcliff since Grandpa Cordace had had a statue erected to remind the town of Radcliff of his existence. There were nine of them. Nine statues in a town where half the population still keeps a family cow.

JIM: That's quite a record, I'd say. There aren't many towns can boast that many prominent citizens commemorated in statuary.

KATE: They aren't good for anything but pigeon roosts.

JIM: Then you mean you have an idea for a different kind of a memorial to the Radcliff name?





KATE: I don't know whether I do or not. That's the reason I wanted to see you on a visit. Look out the window Jim. Are there land across the creek?

JIM: Where the bridge is?

KATE: Yes. It's the last of the Radcliff estate, except for this house.

JIM: It looks like pretty good forest land from here.

KATE: There's about a hundred acres of trees. Once it reached clear to the Davis County line. The rest of the land's been sold or taken for the taxes due on it.

JIM: That's too bad.

KATE: Well, I've read considerable about these "community forests," like they have over in Europe. And I thought to myself if Jim Robbins backs up this information about community forests, then there must be something to it.

JIM: There's something to it all right, Kate. And I'd say you couldn't commemorate the name of Radcliff with greater honor, nor with more good sense.

KATE: There's only one thing I want to know, Jim. What good will it do the town of Radcliff, and for how long?



JIM:

Well, first of all, if you provide for its permanent management, a community forest will furnish work from time to time for a number of people in Saddlebutt. Jobs taking care of the forest and harvesting forest products. In the second place, those forest products will not only pay wages to local people, but will bring some money into the town coffers. And the most important thing about a community forest is the fact that it's a piece of property that pays dividends for as long as you manage it with whole common sense and keep growing the timber as a continuing crop. —

KATE:

Yes — That's quite a mouthful of words, Jim — Do you believe it yourself?

JIM:

Sure I do. That's just the way we manage our National Forests — to keep them permanently productive and useful and a community forest can be run just like a National Forest on a miniature scale.

KATE:

Well — you've told me what I wanted to know — Jim can you spare enough time to tell Martin Kaiser what you've told me? Martin's the chairman of the city council.

JIM:

I'd be glad to. Where can we get in touch with him?



WATER: I'll always like to come over here. You see, I haven't  
said any more for a few years, because there wasn't  
much of a chance for me to come in.  
And I don't. I'll have to get all that silly stuff  
done.

JIM: I think it would be a good idea.

KATE: (LIVING RECEIVER) He's probably at the feed store now.  
Hello, Carrie -- I'm very well, thank you. I want  
Martin Kaiser's feed store -- Yes -- And you can take  
if you want to. It isn't important. (TO JIM) I always  
tell her that. It makes her mad.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

JIM: (FADING IN) But the point to remember, Mr. Kaiser, is  
a community forest is a piece of property that should be  
the town of Radcliff dividends as long as the timber is  
managed with simple common sense, and enough trees are  
left after each cutting to form the basis for future  
crops.

KAISER: (MIDDLE AGE, OBSEQUIOUS) It all sounds most promising.

KATE: There you are, Jim. I knew Martin would see the wisdom  
of your words. There isn't a smarter councilman in the  
state than Martin Kaiser. Sometimes I think he's  
smarter for the rest of the council. Eh, Martin?  
(SHE LAUGHS)

KAISER: Well, Radcliff always was a great hand to joke.





KATE: I mean every word of it -- But you're here on business, Martin. If I remember correctly I haven't paid any taxes for -- well for a few years.

KATHER: Yes, I have to mention it, Miss Radcliff, but --

KATE: You needn't be polite. I'm asking you a favor, this time. What do those back taxes amount to -- in round numbers?

KATHER: It's difficult to state to exact figures --

KATE: Make a guess --

KATHER: Oh, I wouldn't do that.

KATE: Well, I'll make you a proposition. I'll give the town of Radcliff the last hundred acres of the estate, to be dedicated as a community forest, and you forget about the back taxes.

KATHER: But, Miss Radcliff, I fear you don't understand the circumstances -- you see -- well --

KATE: Come, now, Martin. It can't be as bad as this look on your face.

KATHER: Well -- well -- as you say, you haven't paid any taxes for several years.

KATE: Yes. Yes.

KATHER: In fact for quite a few years --

KATE: Go on.





KAISER: And naturally, she won't have it to press the situation, considering that the name of Radcliff means to her town.

KATE: Come to the point, Martin. Mr. Robbins is a busy man.

JIM: Don't mind me, Kate.

KAISER: Well, the facts of the case are these: The amount of indebtedness and the delinquent taxes upon your estate exceeds the value of the hundred acres of land you speak of.

KATE: I own more than the land is worth?

KAISER: Yes.

KATE: But why hasn't I told about this?

KAISER: Well, I knew you were pressed for cash and -- well -- to give you the whole picture, I've had considerable difficulty in restraining the council from taking over your hundred acres for the past two years.

KATE: Well -- There was the last honest effort to clean the scutcheon of the Radcliff family.

KAISER: I can't tell you how sorry I am that such a thing should have occurred, Miss Radcliff. But I should have told you before this -- only -- I --

KATE: If the council must go for taxes, all I'll have left is this old tumble-down house, and nobody wants it -- even as a gift. -- Well, Jim, it was a fine idea while it lasted.



...and you know if I had the money...

...I would have been able to...

I know you tell me, but I don't know...

...I don't know...

...I don't know if it is...

...I don't know if it is worth...

...

JIM: ...you say?

KATE: ...yes, I don't know.

JIM: ...well, Kate, I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

KATE: ...I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

...

MUSIC OF THE DAY

KATE: (SINGS IN) Jim, you've worried all day about Kate...

...I don't know if you...

JIM: I don't know if you...

KATE: I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

JIM: I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

...I don't know if you...

...



SESS: But you said you're so very alert and know what's going on all the time

JIM: I reckon and decided she didn't want to be bothered about it. -- But it still doesn't seem right to me that her hundred acres should all go for taxes. I wish I'd had time to look over that piece of timber

SESS: You said you inquired around Winding Creek about it

JIM: I thought there might be a chance that some of these loggers or timber dealers would have looked it over. Most of them know about all the timber for miles around.

SESS: Didn't Al Perkins know about it?

JIM: I haven't been able to find Al -- If anybody knows he will. Jerry said he'd ask the fellows at the Headwaters outfit if they knew anything about it.

SESS: Headwaters outfit is a distant time here

JIM: Yes, it is.

SESS: When does Jerry come?

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES

JERRY: (FADING IN) Hi, folks. Is the soup kettle on?

SESS: Soup will be ready in a few minutes, Jerry

JERRY: Good. Gee, I'm hungry. We cleaned up that cleaning job on Windy Peak, Jim.

JIM: That's fine, Jerry. Did you have a chance to see any of the Headwaters outfit?





JIM: Well, I ...  
JIM: ...  
JIM: ...  
JIM: If this fellow, Kelsey, had been more definite about the amount of the taxes or the value of the land, I wouldn't have given it a thought. —

PHONE RINGS

BESS: I'll get it, Jim. (RECEIVER UP) Pine Cone Ranger Station for Al. He's right here. It's Al Perkins, Jim.

JIM: Thanks, Bees. — Hello, Al. — Yeah. Say, did you ever make an appraisal of a piece of timber down by Redcliff? — Redcliff? A town named Redcliff. About a hundred and fifty miles south of Rome. — No, it's about a hundred acres of private land owned by a family named Redcliff, same as the town. — There used to be a Ranger Station there about 40 years ago. — It's in Davis County. — That's what I want. — Arthur Kelsey. — He said — Hey, that was you, huh? — Did you make him an offer? — Huh? — That's what, Al. I can't tell you how much I'm to pay him. I'll go over there by it tomorrow and look it over. (RECEIVER ON HOOK)

BESS: That's it, Jim.



JIM: You remember, Bess? I told you about the business of the city council at Radcliff, Martin Kaiser?

BESS: Yes, Jim.

JERRY: What about him?

JIM: Al says that two weeks ago a man named Kaiser asked him to make an appraisal of a hundred-acre piece of timber in Davis County and that's where Radcliff is located.

JERRY: You think it was the Radcliff timber he wanted appraised?

JIM: I'm sure it couldn't have been any other. There isn't another hundred acres of timber in the county that I know of. Most of the forest lands in that section are over in the next county, beyond Radcliff.

BESS: Do you think he came here trying to get the land for Radcliff, Jim?

JIM: I don't know, Bess, but it looks to me like Kaiser was going to have the town take the land for taxes and then maybe buy it up again at a tax sale and sell it at a good profit.

JERRY: I'll bet you're right, Jim. That's why he came all the way to Winding Creek to get someone to make an appraisal.

JIM: He'll get someone from Winding Creek to make him an appraisal all-right. I'm leaving in the morning for Radcliff. (FADING) I'll see how much that piece of timber is worth to the --

MUSIC UP AND OUT



JIM: (PAUSE) Well, he told me that he felt by the name of Kaiser asked him to make an appraisal of a hundred acres of timber in the north part of Davis County.

KATE: It was Merrill Kaiser, you can lay to that. But I never thought he'd have the nerve to try to blackmail me.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, he's gone so far as try.

KATE: And it's the last time he'll ever do it. I'll show him a trick or two before I'm done with him. -- Now you say my trees are worth more money than I owe in taxes?

JIM: It's a whole powerful lot of delinquent taxes to set up the value of your timber. You've got a hundred acres of some of the best pine I've seen in a long time.

KATE: Then I can sell some timber to pay off my taxes and still have the name of the Radcliff clan from Alderside?

JIM: If you do it properly.

KATE: What does "properly" mean?

JIM: You should have a complete appraisal from a reputable firm. Then you must log the tract on a careful, selective plan. Just cutting our mature trees and leaving plenty of good young growing stock. And try to get all that's cut utilized the best way possible, even the weak trees for fence posts or cord wood, or whatever you can get out of it.





KATE: Then all I need to do is to get an accurate appraisal  
sell off some of the timber, pay my taxes and I'll  
still have the land left in good shape to establish  
the Badcliff Community Forest.

JIM: That's it.

KATE: Well, who am I get to make the appraisal?

JIM: Any of these reputable logging outfits around here  
will do it for you.

KATE: How about Al Perkins? I'll call him this minute.

JIM: I reckon he'd be glad to do it.

RECEIVER UP

KATE: Here goes Jim -- (TO PHONE) Hello, Carrie. I want to  
put in a long distance call. -- No, nobody's died -- I  
want to get the Winding Creek Lumber Company at Winding  
Creek. You can listen in if you want. You won't hear  
anything so gossip about. (TO JIM) That's what I say to  
her when I want to get her really mad. If I didn't she'd  
tell every word I say.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you every Friday on the  
Farm and Home Program through the courtesy of the  
National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the  
United States Forest Service.

LS 2:50  
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